

REMARKS

In the present Submission, Applicants have amended claims 4-8 and added new claims 21-23. No new matter has been introduced thereby.

Support for claim amendments can be found throughout the specification. In particular, support for the amendment to claim 5 can be found at least at page 5, lines 19-20, and page 8, line 24, to page 9, line 7. Support for the amendment to claim 6 can be found at least at page 4, lines 16-19, and in claim 6 as originally filed. Support for the amendment to claim 7 can be found at least at page 4, lines 20-22. Support for the amendment to claim 8 can be found at least at page 8, lines 10-17. Support for new claim 21, drawn to a method for producing a biochip wherein the spotting pin has at least one recessed tip, can be found at page 5, line 21, to page 6, line 2. Support for new claim 22, drawn to a method for producing a biochip wherein the binding agent is spotted on the plate using a tube, can be found at least at page 8, lines 21-24. Support for new claim 23, drawn to a method for producing a biochip wherein the plate is substantially planar, can be found at least at page 7, lines 19-21, and figures 1A-E, 2A-E, 3A-E, and 4A-E.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant : Ito et al.  
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Page : 4

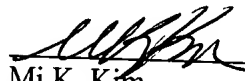
Attorney's Docket No.: 07898-051001 / PH-709US

Applicants ask that all claims be examined. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no additional fees are necessitated by the present Submission. However, in the event any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/10/01

  
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Mi K. Kim  
Reg. No. 44,830

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500  
San Diego, CA 92122  
Telephone: (858) 678-5070  
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

**Version with markings to show changes made**

**In the claims:**

Claims 4-8 have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A method for producing a biochip by spotting probes on a plate by using a binding agent for binding the probes to the plate, the method comprising the [a] step of spotting mixtures of respective probes and the binding agent on the plate.
5. (Amended) A method for producing a biochip by spotting probes on a plate, the method comprising the steps of:
  - spotting a binding agent for binding the probes to the plate at positions where the probes are to be spotted; and
  - spotting the probes on the plate at positions where the binding agent is spotted with a spotting pin.
6. (Amended) The method for producing a biochip according to claim 4, claim 5, or claim 22 [or 5], wherein the plate is made of a material which is selected from the group consisting of [comprising] nylon membranes, glass, silicone wafer, polyimide resin and polymer plastic.
7. (Amended) The method for producing a biochip according to [any of] claim[s] 4, claim 5, or claim 22 [to 6], wherein the binding agent is selected from the group consisting of [comprising] poly-1-lysine carbodiimide and silylation-coating.
8. (Amended) The method for producing a biochip according to [any one of] claim[s] 4 [to 7], wherein the mixtures are [probes are] spotted by using a spotting pin [with a recessed tip].